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January 24, 2003

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Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation – CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-98, 01-338, 98-147,
02-33, 96-262, 99-200 and 95-116

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 23, 2003, on behalf of the TDS Telecommunications Corporation (TDS Telecom) Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) and competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), TDS Metrocom and U.S. Link, Kevin Hess, Mark Jenn, Peter Healy and I met with Lisa Zaina, Senior Legal Advisor for Commissioner Adelstein. Our discussion dealt with the points summarized on the attached memorandum provided to her at the meeting.

We also stated that the Commission needs to adopt an interim plan for dealing with service area and designation issues, such as those raised in Commission's proceeding on the Colorado PUC service area proposals. While the agency is reexamining its policies on support for additional carriers in rural telephone company areas, it should not permit the federal support fund to balloon owing to designations and service area changes made to provide support that does not benefit rural customers or the nationwide customers who ultimately foot the bill for universal service support.

In the event of any questions about this matter, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Margot Smiley Humphrey

cc: (with enclosure)
Lisa Zaina, Esq.